PATENTS

Attorney Docket No.: R105 1010.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Examiner: not assigned Hungerpiller, et al. Group Art Unit: 3651

Serial No: 10/057,608 Filed: 01/24/2002

For: System and Method for Processing Returned Mail

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Examiner's Action for the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims 1, 2, 7, 9 - 11, 16, 18 - 20, and 22 - 27, as set forth below, for claims 1, 2, 7, 9 - 11, 16, 18 - 20, and 22 - 27 as originally filed in the above-identified application. A copy of the amended claim showing the amendments made thereto, including additions being shown with underlining and deletions being shown in brackets, is attached in the appendix herewith.

method for processing a plurality of underiverable mail items comprising the steps of:

encoding data including identification information on each of a plurality of mail

items prior to mailing;

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